



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

January 14, 1997

Mr. John Kline
BHP Florence Project
14605 East Hunt Highway
Florence, AZ 85232

RE: Notice of Completion of Technical Review

Dear Mr. Kline:

Pursuant to Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 144 and 146, EPA has completed the technical review of BHP Copper's application for a Class III area permit and aquifer exemption in Florence, Arizona. EPA has made a preliminary decision to issue a permit for this project and has therefore written a Draft Permit. However, EPA's final determination on BHP's proposal will not be made until EPA has reviewed all public comments.

EPA is currently working with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to ensure that the state and federal Draft Permits are consistent. EPA and ADEQ hope to begin the 30-day public comment period as soon as possible. If you have any questions on this notice of completion, please call Gregg Olson of my staff at (415) 744-1828.

Sincerely,

Wendy L. Melvin
for Laura Bose, Chief
Ground Water Office

